

XENOPHORIDAE DESHAYES, 1864 (GASTROPODA); PROPOSED PRESERVATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1483

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The family-group name XENOPHORIDAE Deshayes, 1864 (*Descr. Anim. sans Vertèbr. Bassin Paris* 2 : 958) has been used commonly since the late 1800s to the present by writers of standard nomenclatural treatises : Weinkauff, 1867, *Conchyl. Mittelmeeres* : 341 ; P. Fischer, 1885, *Manuel Conchyl.* (8) : 759 ; Tryon, 1886, *Man. Conch.* 8 : 156 ; Dall, 1892, *Trans. Wagner Free Inst. Sci., Philadelphia*, 3(2) : 360 ; Pilsbry in Zittel, *Textb. Paleont.* (ed. 2) : 543 ; Suter, 1913, *Man. New Zealand Moll.* : 277 ; Cossmann, 1916, *Essais Paléoconch. comp.*, Livr. 10 : 186 ; Theile, 1931, *Handb. Syst. Weichtierk.* 1 : 249 ; Wenz, 1940, *Handb. Paläozool.*, Gastropoda 6(4) : 905 ; Clench and Aguayo, 1943, *Johnsonia*, Xenophoridae : 1 ; Habe, 1953, *Illustr. Cat. Japanese Shells* (23) : 173 ; Cotton, 1959, *South Australian Mollusca* : 366.

The family-group name XENOPHORIDAE was formed from the stem of the name of the type-genus *Xenophora* Fischer von Waldheim (1807, *Museum-Demidoff* 3 : 213). Although the generic name *Xenophora* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807, has been used since about the 1860s and is now recognised as the prior name for the "carrier shells", the generic name *Phorus* Montfort, 1810 (*Conch. syst. Class. méth. Coquilles* 2 : 158-160) was the name with which the molluscan workers were familiar and the name was more popular in the years 1843-1887 (Reeve, Catlow, D'Orbigny, Woodward, White, Gabb, Guppy) as was also *Onustus* Humphrey, 1797 (*Museum Calonnianum*, not accepted Op. 51, ICZN). In 1840, Gray (*Synopsis of the Contents of the British Museum* (ed. 42) : 119) published the family-group name PHORIDAE from the stem of the generic name *Phorus* Montfort, 1810. Although this name for the family-group had priority, it was not employed so frequently as ONUSTIDAE the name formed by H. & A. Adams, 1854 (*Gen. rec. Moll.* 1 : 361). A compilation of the use of the family-group taxa PHORIDAE and ONUSTIDAE, employed by the principal authors who included the family-group classification in their works, consists mainly of : for PHORIDAE Gray, 1840, 1847 ; Agassiz, 1848 ; Sacco, 1896—for ONUSTIDAE H. & A. Adams, 1854 ; Chenu, 1859 ; Stoliczka, 1868 ; Paetel, 1875 ; Tryon, 1882.

3. *Xenophora* and its related genera are trochoid forms which have the outstanding character of attaching foreign objects to the upper exterior of the shell. It is the only family of the voluminous number of gastropods which maintains this feature. Exceptions are about five isolated cases of nontrochoid and non-related genera. Consequently the xenophorids occupy a unique niche among gastropod families and the use of the family-group name XENOPHORIDAE dominates current molluscan literature.

4. According to the Copenhagen Decisions Section 45(1) (p. 33) the name of the taxon of the family-group is governed by priority even though the nominate

genus is changed in status to junior synonym, objective or subjective. In the case cited the family-group name PHORIDAE Gray, 1840, has priority in naming over XENOPHORIDAE Deshayes, 1864. The nominate generic name *Phorus* Montfort, 1810, is a junior synonym of *Xenophora* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807. To revert to the family-group name PHORIDAE would have little significance and would be confusing to current molluscan workers. Included in the Decision (Section 45(1) (p. 33) Copenhagen Decisions) is the provision that if priority of a family-group name "is in conflict with current usage, current usage is to be maintained" provided certain conditions of application for relief are carried out.

5. The genus *Xenophora* was based on 4 nominal species without designation of any one as type-species. The recent species *Trochus conchyliophorus* Born has been commonly cited as type-species on the ground that this was designated as such by Gray (1847, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*: 158). Actually, this species was designated (invalidly) as type-species of *Phorus* Montfort, 1810, of which Gray cited *Xenophora* Fischer as a synonym. The first valid designation of a type-species for *Xenophora* is that by Harris (1897, *Cat. Tertiary Moll. B.M. (N.H.)*, Part I, *The Australasian Tertiary Mollusca*: 253) who so designated "*Xenophora laevigata* G. Fischer (*Trochus conchyliophorus* Gmelin)". Both these specific names are junior subjective synonyms of *Trochus trochiformis* Born, 1778 (*Index Mus. Caes. Vind.*: 355).

6. The International Commission is therefore asked :

- (1) to declare under its plenary powers that the family-group name XENOPHORIDAE Deshayes, 1864, shall be preferred to the prior names PHORIDAE Gray, 1840, and ONUSTIDAE H. & A. Adams, 1854, so long as these names are considered to be applicable to the same taxon. The maintenance of the family name which has been used for over 90 years and in universal usage for over 60 years is in the interest of greater stability of nomenclature ;
- (2) to place the generic name *Xenophora* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation by Harris, 1897, *Xenophora laevigata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) to place the specific name *trochiformis* Born, 1778, as published in the binomen *Turbo trochiformis*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology ;
- (4) to place the family-group name XENOPHORIDAE Deshayes, 1864 (type-genus *Xenophora* Fischer von Waldheim, 1807) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.

Editor's Note : The family-group name PHORIDAE Curtis, 1833, is in current use in the Insecta, Order Diptera, and is based on the nominal genus *Phora* Latreille, 1796 (*Précis Caract. Ins.*: 169) and antedates PHORIDAE Gray, 1840. The virtual suppression of PHORIDAE Gray, 1840, is therefore welcome to Dipterists.—W. E. CHINA.